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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
----------082420 022338Z /75
O P 022309Z APR 78 ZFF-4
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 03079

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY), AF
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA WESTERN FIVE RESPONSE TO SWAPO REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES ON WALVIS BAY

REF: TOSEC 030078

1. THE SECRETARY, OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS, AND U.K. HIGH COMMISSIONER FALLE MET TODAY WITH FOREIGN MINISTERS OF NIGERIA, ZAMBIA, BOTSWANNA, AND TANZANIA U.N. PERMREP SALIM TO DISCUSS NAMIBIA, PARTICULARLY WALVIS BAY. SUBJECT WAS ALSO DISCUSSED WITH GENERAL OBASANJO. IT WAS AGREED THAT WE WOULD PROPOSE TO SWAPO FORMULA ON WALVIS BAY SIMILAR TO THAT CONTAINED REFTEL.
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2. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE USUN SHOULD SEEK CONTACT GROUP AGREEMENT TO THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO NUJOMA QUESTION TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG ON WALVIS BAY: A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY THE FIVE TO THE EFFECT THAT WE SUPPORTED THE SWAPO VIEW THAT WALVIS BAY IS PART AND PARCEL OF NAMIBIA WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY LEAD TO A BREAKDOWN IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS

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WITH SOUTH AFRICA. HOWEVER, THE FIVE WOULD BE PREPARED
TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC STATEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF,
REPEAT IN THE CONTEXT, OF SWAPO'S PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF THE
CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL.

-- WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO TAKE A POSITION ON THE
COMPLEX LEGAL CLAIMS OF THE PARTIES.

-- GEOGRAPHICALLY, ADMINISTRATIVELY AND ECONOMICALLY
THERE ARE STRONG ARGUMENTS FOR INCLUDING WALVIS BAY AS A
PART OF AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA. THE ETHNIC AND CULTURAL
TIES BETWEEN THE INHABITANTS OF WALVIS BAY AND THE REST
OF NAMIBIA ARE ALSO COMPELLING.

-- IN THEIR EFFORT TO FIND AN INTERNATIONALLY-
ACCEPTABLE NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF NAMIBIA
IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 355,
THE FIVE GOVERNMENTS TAKE THE POSITION THAT A SOLUTION
TO THE PROBLEM OF WALVIS BAY MUST BE RESOLVED IN POLITICAL
RATHER THAN LEGAL CONTEXT. THERE MUST BE NEGOTIATIONS
BETWEEN AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIAN STATE AND SOUTH AFRICA.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT THE ECONOMIC, GEOGRAPHIC,
POLITICAL, ETHNIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS OUTLINED
ABOVE ARE OF SUFFICIENT STRENGTH THAT THE OUTCOME OF THESE
NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE THAT WALVIS BAY SHOULD BE PART OF
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NAMIBIA. IN LINE WITH THEIR CONTINUED INTEREST IN
NAMIBIA, MEMBERS OF THE CONTACT GROUP WOULD BE PREPARED
AT THE REQUEST OF THE PARTIES TO ASSIST IN FINDING SUCH
A SOLUTION.

3. IN DISCUSSING THE ABOVE WITH SWAPO WE WOULD REITERATE
OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT IN THE INTERIM PERIOD, THE SIZE OF
SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IN WALVIS BAY WOULD NOT BE INCREASED,
THAT PROVISIONS WOULD BE MADE FOR NAMIBIANS IN WALVIS BAY
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS AND THAT SOUTH
AFRICA HAS AGREED THAT ALL ASPECTS OF THE WALVIS BAY
QUESTION SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS.

4. WE WOULD ALSO STRESS TO SWAPO THAT THE WALVIS BAY
ISSUE, WHILE IMPORTANT, IS NOT PARAMOUNT AND
THREATENS, THROUGH ITS TEMPORARY INSOLUBILITY, THE ENTIRE
NEGOTIATION PROCESS. IN OUR VIEW IT WOULD CLEARLY BE SELF-
DEFEATING FOR SWAPO TO PASS UP THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED
BY THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL IN THE MISTAKEN BELIEF THAT
IT CAN MAXIMIZE ITS POSITION THROUGH FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS.

5. IN DISCUSSING THE ABOVE WITHIN THE CONTACT GROUP USUN

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SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THE ABOVE FORMULA, WHILE DIFFICULT FOR THE SOUTH AFRICANS, PROBABLY MEETS THEIR MINIMUM CONDITIONS ON THIS POINT. MOREOVER SOUTH AFRICA IS AWARE THAT MOST NAMIBIAN GROUPS INCLUDING THE TURNHALLE HAVE COME OUT FOR ULTIMATE INCLUSION OF WALVIS BAY IN NAMIBIA.

6. THE SECRETARY INFORMED THE FRONT LINE REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE U.S. WOULD REPEAT WOULD MAKE A STATEMENT ALONG THE ABOVE LINES IN THE CONTEXT OF SWAPO'S PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSALS. HOWEVER, HE INDICATED THAT WE WOULD HOPE TO GET THIS POSITION ADOPTED BY THE CONTACT GROUP AS WHOLE. WE WOULD TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH THE OTHER FOUR GOVERNMENTS
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ON MONDAY, MARCH 3.

7. FOR OTHER ACTION ADDRESSEES: SINCE WE WISH TO ACHIEVE QUICK AGREEMENT WITHIN CONTACT GROUP, ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD RAISE THIS MATTER AT APPROPRIATE LEVELS AND EMPHASIZE NEED FOR QUICK DECISION.

8. OUR HOPE IS THAT CAPITALS WOULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY INSTRUCTIONS TO THEIR REPRESENTATIVES FOR MONDAY MEETING OF THE CONTACT GROUP IN NEW YORK. IF POSSIBLE, WE WOULD THEN COMMUNICATE THE ABOVE TO SWAPO AND THE FRONT LINE STATES ON TUESDAY. VANCE

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